

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, and 8-15 are now in the application. Claims 3 and 7 have been cancelled. Claims 13-15 have been added.

Claim 6 has been amended in response to the Examiner's objection. The suggested change has been adopted. Claim 3 has been canceled in response to the Examiner's rejection thereof. The specification and the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs. Should the Examiner find any further objectionable items, counsel would appreciate a telephone call during which the matter may be resolved.

Claim 1 has been amended by introducing the connection of each of the data processors to the intermediate adapter. The added terminology is supported in the original claim 5 and in Figs. 3 and 4 of the drawing. The expression "directly" is intended to avoid the bus-type connection as it is used, for example, in the primary reference Oeda. The direct cable and/or connector connection is a separate connection for each data channel. No channel competition on a bus or a common connector can occur. We will return to this issue in the following discussion of the prior art.

The amendment to claim 6 and the added claim 13 find support in the original specification. For example, the HDD partitions are illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4 and the

process in which the offset is added in the individual channels is described in paragraph [0033], for example.

We now turn to the art rejection, in which claims 1-12 have been rejected as being anticipated by Oeda et al. (US 5,809,279, "Oeda") under 35 U.S.C. § 102. We respectfully traverse on the basis of the amended claims.

Oeda describes a system in which multiple computers (hosts) are connected via a disc controller to a single hard drive. The system is based on a SCSI protocol. The hosts communicate with the disc controller through a SCSI bus. That is, each host has its SCSI ID and the bus traffic is controlled by arbitration among the various calling hosts, and the traffic is organized and controlled according to the IDs. The disc controller addresses the various partitions of the hard drive by way of the SCSI IDs and allows access to each of the partitions for the host who is currently in control of the bus.

With regard to claim 1, Oeda does not have a "plurality of cables or connectors" that individually connect each host "directly" to the hard disk drive adapter. Oeda instead connects through the SCSI bus.

The drive 4 of Oeda is divided into three partitions 41, 42, 43. Each of the partitions is allocated a different LUN (logical unit number), here IDs 1, 2, 3, respectively. The host "sees" the three partitions each as a separate drive. In the SCSI system, each partition is thus just another unit.

With regard to claim 6, Oeda does not disclose “means for translating an address . . . to a physical address . . . by adding an offset that is different for each said data processing channel.” Instead, Oeda simply calls the partitions as units via their IDs and the intermediate controller (which is also a unit) addresses the units by their set IDs. The same argument holds true for claim 13.

In summary, neither Oeda nor any of the remaining references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1, 6, or 13. These claims are, therefore, patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claims 1, 6, or 13, they are patentable as well. In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-15 are solicited.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of two (2) months pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$225.00 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith. Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 12-1099 of Lerner Greenberg Stermer LLP.

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